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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: OBAMA'S VISIT TO CHINA

¶1. SUMMARY: Nepal's largest vernacular daily Kantipur (with circulation of 150,000) on Friday, November 20, 2009 published an opinion piece by a Nepali journalist about President Obama's recent visit to China. The piece titled "Meaning of Obama's Visit" was basically a neutral write-up on the various topics covered during Obama's tour. Stating that the visit was positive on the whole, it concluded by saying "Obama wanted to send a message that the U.S. has returned as a player in this region's diplomatic 'chessboard'."

TRANSLATED EXCERPTS:

¶2. "During his trip to the Great Wall of China, he said, "This is magical." The reference of the word magical was not only to the existing limited bilateral relations between the two countries but also to building a bilateral partnership to address global issues."

¶3. "It is a positive thing that the two countries want to develop a bilateral partnership to address global issues. However, India is not comfortable with this, which was indicated by the Spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, Bishnu Prasad, immediately after the U.S. and China issued a joint statement. India's concern was regarding the phrase in the joint statement that said the U.S. and China are willing to help improve India-Pakistan relations."

¶4. "Obama and Hu have also agreed on supporting the three main concerns in Asia - peace, stability and development. Nepal also falls under this. Nepal is important to China for more strategic reasons, whereas for the U.S., Nepal is important because of China and India. For this reason, it is good to have cooperation between two huge powers, for peace, stability and development of a small neighbor. We will still need to wait and see this U.S.-China partnership take effect."

¶5. "There are various other aspects of Obama's Asia visit. Obama wants to send a message that the U.S. has returned as a player in this region's diplomatic 'chessboard'. The aim of his visit was apparently to strengthen U.S. ties with emerging world powers, which includes China and India."

BERRY